133 These volcanos, /299/ projecting far beyond the general level, give the landscape of Kamchatka its peculiar picture.

137 The bottoms of the valleys, if they are not too very swampy and covered with moss, have luxuriant meadows, which appear especially in the southern part of the peninsula and which offer excellent [231] grazing ground for livestock. The introduction of the breeding of livestock has, therefore, attained the greatest measure here, too. To be mentioned especially as characteristic of the landscape picture are the high-growing plants in these regions, especially the umbrella-shaped "sweet grass" (Heracleum tanatum or Heracleum dulce), [243] which grows up to 4 1/4 meters high and develops a stalk 12 centimeters thick. The natives use the juice of this rapidly growing plant [275] to sweeten their food; the Russians earlier extracted alcohol from the plant by fermentation.

133 137 Entirely in contrast to the forest and park landscapes of the mountain regions which are rich in vegetation, are the tundra-like moss steppes which stretch in a broad zone along the entire western coast. In the east, on the other hand, these moss steppes form only a narrow rim around the bays. Occasionally these steppes occur also in the valleys of the mountain ranges. These monotonous regions are depressingly dismal and gloomy especially when a veil of fog hangs over them and prevents seeing any distance.

161 The population of Kamchatka according to estimates, scarcely numbered 20,000 in 1914, and the native element was in the majority at that time. But after World War I and up to the present the population has multiplied because of the increased immigration of Russians, and by 1945 the population was given at around 100,000. Thus today the Russians are predominant, constituting approximately 80 percent of the total population. Today their number is estimated to be at least 150,000. The sedentary population is divided among three lines of settlements: the east coast, the west coast, and the Kamchatka Valley.

563 The Koryak and Kamchadal constitute the bulk of the native population. The Koryak occupy the northern half of the peninsula and the adjoining mainland between the Penzhina depression in the west and the coast of the Bering Sea on the east. On Kamchatka itself they live on the west coast as far as the Sopochnaya River in the south and in the region around Litke Bay. In the Kamchatka valley itself they are no longer to be encountered. Their region of residence has been brought together into a national okrug, in which they, as well as the Chukchee, enjoy cultural autonomy. The capital of their